THE MESSENGER
OF THE OAKLAND STAKE OF ZION

Vol. 6 — OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER, 1936 — No. 7

PRESIDENT GRANT RETURNS FROM ALASKAN VOYAGE

A number of Phoenix residents and representatives of the Beneficial Life Insurance Company, including Mr. and Mrs. Allen Cameron, their daughter Bertha, Mrs. Eleanor Shupe and son Robert, and Margaret Frederickson accompanied President Grant and party on their Alaskan pleasure excursion.

Declaring his vacation cruise to Alaska at the head of a party of Beneficial Life Insurance Company officials and employes a very enjoyable one, with ideal weather condition from start to finish, President Heber J. Grant returned to his office in Salt Lake City last Wednesday.

The President was accompanied by Mrs. Grant, several of his family, the Utah party numbering approximately 107 persons.

Most of the ten-day boat trip was made in sheltered water and very little seasickness was experienced, President Grant reported. He said that everything — including the weather, the scenery and the obliging accommodations of the boat's officers, headed by Capt. O. C. Anderson — combined to make an ideal trip.

Land of Roses

President Grant said the party was impressed by the beautiful scenery and by the remarkable growth of vegetation. As an example, he stated that Vice-Pres. George J. Cannon of the Beneficial Life Insurance Company picked a stock of rhubarb which was six inches around the base with the leaf measuring three feet from tip to tip and the length of stock and leaf totaled 52 inches. Wild roses, he said, grow in profusion and the flowers were much larger in size than any seen here and of a deeper color.

The party visited a flower garden in Skagway in which the dahlias, pansies and other flowers were much larger than they had seen elsewhere.

At Fort Haines there was a sweep of mountain scenery, with one range of mountains behind another that was the most remarkable mountain scenery he had ever seen in all his travels, the President said. The President's son-in-law, Willard R. Smith, who was one of the members of the party said that if one wants to see beautiful scenery he should go to Norway. He admitted, however, that the mountain scenery in Alaska was even superior to that in Norway. A former German missionary acknowledged that the Alaskan scenery surpassed that in Switzerland.

Echoes Multiply

The party were extended the privilege of visiting a salmon canning plant at Metlakatlia, a town administered entirely by native Alaska Indians, and obtained a very favorable impression of the skillful and sanitary

(Continued on Next Page)

John J. Kest, C. C. Carr, Don C. Wood, Sarah E. Banning, Pres. Eugene Hilton, Pres. W. Aird Macdonald, Amy Evans, member General Relief Society Board; Oscar Kirkham, member Young Men's Board; Sarah H. Carruth, Ivy Breck, Ruth R. Shurtleff, O. Leslie Stone, Bessie Hughes, Hugh P. Anderson, Delbert F. Wright, Norman B. Phillips.

STAKE CONFERENCE

The week-end of August 16 and 17 was a busy and enjoyable one in the Oakland Stake. Sister Amy Evans, wife of John Henry Evans, well-known writer in the church, represented the General Board of the Relief Society. Oscar Kirkham, Bertha Tingy, and Charlotte Stewart represented the M. I. A. General Board.

Meetings of the Relief Society commenced on Saturday afternoon and were presided over by Sarah H. Caruth, president of the Oakland Stake Relief Society. On Saturday evening the Mutual opened its convention. After the regular business meetings, a social was held, directed by Amy M. Anderson. The Stake Priesthood meeting was also held on Saturday evening. All of the Melchizedek quorum presidents: John C. Stirrat of the High Priests, Oscar Fantano of the Seventies, and Alvin Sorenson, Frank Nelson, Joseph E. Woods of the first, second and third quorums of Elders, and Glen Smith for the fourth quorum gave reports on the Priesthood work in the Stake. The Aaronic Priesthood met in the Relief Society room with James Ruff, a teacher from Dimond, Clinton Apedale, priest from Dimond, and I. B. Boll of the High Council, as speakers.

The Sunday morning meeting was turned over to the Relief Society with President Sarah H. Caruth presiding. Speakers were Sarah H. Caruth, Amy Evans, Anna Ellsworth, whose theme was, "The Challenge."

President Johnson made a brief report on the progress of the church Social Security program in the Oakland Stake. He reported that the stake now has a storehouse at 3777 Webster street, near the Oakland chapel; that fast offerings have been greatly increased in the last few months; that each of the wards of Oakland and San Francisco stakes were contributing money to buy cans and sugar for 1000 cans of peaches for which the people of the Gridley and Sacramento stakes were furnishing the fruit and labor. This will bring about the canning of from fifteen to twenty thousand cans of fruit for use in this stake, and thereafter where the general authorities of the church will indicate the greatest need for it.

The afternoon session was presided over by President MacDonald, and was the official quarterly conference meeting. The speakers were I. B. Ball, president of the Stake mission; Oscar Kirkham, Amy Evans, Helene Brummett who will soon leave for a mission, and John J. Kest of the High Council.

The evening session was under the direction of the M. I. A. F. E. Huish presided, and a profitable program was presented. Oscar Kirkham spoke effectively showing the necessity of being prepared when the storms of life approach. Sisters Bertha Tingey and Charlotte Stewart centered their remarks on the new M. I. A. slogan. Elsie C. Johnson of the Stake Board gave a scriptural reading. Berkeley Erickson and Melva Shields represented the M. Men and Gleaner Girl organizations. Musical numbers were rendered by Le Grande Anderson, Helene Chipman Richards, and Norma Bryan.

"My experience has taught me, and it has become a principle with me, that it is never any benefit to give out and out, to man or woman, money, food, clothing or anything else, if they are able-bodied and can work and earn what they need, when there is anything on earth for them to do. This is my principle and I try to act upon it. To pursue a contrary course would ruin any community in the world and make them idlers."

—BRIGHAM YOUNG

THE MESSENGER

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Published by the Oakland Stake of Zion
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801 Cragmont Avenue, Berkeley. AShberry 8615
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651 58th Street. HUmboldt 2254

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me; and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple."—Mal. 3:1.

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"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION"

There has been much discussion of the sentence in the Lord's Prayer which has been translated, "Lead us not into temptation." The revised version which many accept is, "Leave us not in temptation."

Does God *lead* His children into temptation? All the evidence and the dictates of reason are to the contrary. Temptation is permitted that the children of God may gain a knowledge of good and evil through experience. All the teachings of our Father in heaven lead us into righteousness and away from evil. Yet temptation must be placed before man in order to permit the operation of the law of free agency. God neither leads us into temptation nor permits evil powers to force us to sin.

The following quotations from *Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, should be studied carefully: "It is no more a part of God's plan to compel men to work righteousness than it is his purpose to permit evil powers to force his children into sin.

"Concerning his dealings with the first patriarch of the race (Adam), God has declared in this day: 'Behold, I gave unto him that he should be an agent unto himself.'

"A knowledge of good and evil is essential to the advancement that God has made possible for his children to achieve; and this knowledge can be best gained by actual experience. Therefore, has man been placed upon earth subject to the influence of good and wicked powers, with a knowledge of the conditions surrounding him, and a heaven-born right to choose for himself.

"Another of the Nephite Prophets (Alma) in speaking of those who had died, said they had gone, 'That they might reap their rewards according to their works, whether they were good or whether they were bad, to reap eternal happiness or eternal misery, according to the spirit which they listed to obey, whether it be a good spirit or a bad one. For every man receiveth wages of him whom he listeth to obey.'"

From the above it will be seen that while temptation in the world is necessary, having been introduced by Satan, and by divine permission continued in order that man may gain experience by contrast between evil and good, God does not lead us into temptation. His "leading" is all away from it. He desires His children to be saved in the highest degree of glory which will be our happy lot if we avoid temptation, lead ourselves not into it, but by following the teachings given unto us, overcome temptation and thus win exaltation and eternal life.

Ward Teachers' Message for October, 1936

ALASKAN VOYAGE

(*Continued from Page* 1)

manner in which the fish are handled.

The party stopped near the Taku glacier for about three quarters of an hour, and the boat moved about into different positions so that several different views of the glacier could be obtained. This glacier is nearly one mile wide and rises 200 feet from the water's edge. One of the most interesting of these in connection with the visit to the glacier was that the blasts from the ship's whistle would echo three or four times, and it was astonishing the lapse of time between the blasting of the whistle and the return of the echoes.

While on the cruise the party listened in to a program broadcast from KSL as a compliment to the group. Annette Richardson Dinwoodey and Virginia Freeze Barker sang numbers, accompanied by Becky Almond on the piano.

Observe Pioneer Day

On the twenty-fourth of July a pageant was presented by members of the party, the last scene in the pageant being one of President and Mrs. Grant and seven of his daughters.

They visited Juneau, the center of a great mining district which produces millions of dollars worth of gold annually from low-grade ore. The ore is handled in much the same manner as is the copper ore by the Utah Copper Co.

President Grant said that he very much enjoyed visiting with the pilot of the ship, J. G. Nord, who was the captain of a ship some 40 odd years ago on which Pres. Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith made a trip to Alaska. He inquired about President Woodruff's two daughters who were with him at that time. He said that one of them was called Alice (Alice McCune)—he remembered her name. The other was Mrs. Joseph J. Daynes. One of Mrs. Daynes' sons, Sharp W. Daynes, was in the party, and had a nice visit with Mr. Nord.

Holds Meetings

The party reached Seattle on their return trip Sunday, where President Grant held two meetings with the members of the Church, one at 10 a. m. at the branch chapel, at which it was estimated there were more than 600 persons in attendance, and the other in the Metropolitan theatre in the evening, at this meeting more than 900 persons were present.

The following evening, Monday, a meeting was held in the Portland branch chapel, at which between 800 and 900 persons were present. It was reported that the attendance at these three meetings was the largest the branches in those cities had ever had.

President Grant received a telephone message, while in Seattle, from Pres. Scott B. Brown of the Boise stake, asking him to stop over in Boise, Tuesday night and hold a meeting which he did. It was estimated that there were 800 persons at this meeting, the largest attendance they had had there.

Friday, July 18

Here we are leaving the harbor of Seattle out headed northward toward the land of the midnight sun on the ship Aleutian. President Grant and his seven daughters are aboard. No prophet, ancient or modern, ever took a finer cargo of family love aboard any cruise on any ship. Ripened by a vigorous life, supreme in usefulness, this leader with his helpful mate, are just rehearsing a final act of a great life.

Up before sunrise. This glorious inland passage makes a beautiful comparison to the journey he soon will take—a peaceful ride through the narrows on a clean ocean carefully charted and studded on the shore by variety and verdure. All along the coast line of his life, are large and small islands of good acts, islands with many lighthouses. Truly there are none ashore more luminative than this one aboard; a beacon light cruising toward the land of the midnight sun, beyond that land, greater light will shine for him to show greater tasks yet undone.

Sunday, July 20

This morning I am thinking of my Sunday school class in Oakland.

Man, in his selfishness, has dotted green, colorful islands with ugly lumber shacks. Villages and cities have distorted the beauty of nature like a lovely lady with an ugly mole. Some day as humans, we will wake up to stop such ugly creations, and like the lovely lady, the ugly mole or wart will be removed.

Monday, July 21

Our Sunday services were a pleasant surprise to all. The respectful devotion of the daughters of President Grant, is an expression of loyalty as majestic and beautiful as our scenery. High mountains fade away and icebergs like white swans on the little pond fade away in the turquoise not even disturbed by a ripple, they varnish the sea, and reflect peaks and mountains fading away to an open ocean to weep on the grave of winter's woeful wail — President Grant and his bride of 50 years seemed to be having a most excellent time.

Still headed northward, gigantic grandeur everywhere.

Tuesday, July 22—Haines Barracks

At the barracks, situated several hundred feet above the harbor, Fanny and I turned in the twilight to see our boat and its lights. We decided to enjoy the battle of dawn and so waited for the sunrise.

I am sitting here writing in midnight twilight. In the sheen of early morning I seem to see great dragons with their open mouths snapping at the sky. Shafts of gold goad the clouds to action and seem to feed the maw of morn. The sky is ever changing.

The sky is winning the battle. Here comes old Katodan emerging bloody red through the jaws of two great peaks spreading gold all over the face of the clouds and spearing our ship with splintering shafts of sheen.

What a land! What a sight! How reflective of the great journey to the land of the midnight sun.

A MORNING PRAYER

Give me a heart as pure
As the misty dawn,
Give me a faith as sure
As the night just gone,
Grant to me zeal, as warm
As mid-day sun,
Lord, keep my soul from harm,
Till day is done.

—*Selected*

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WARD TEACHING

At the monthly meeting of the bishops and stake presidency held August 23, it was agreed that prayer with the family should ordinarily be a part of the ward teaching procedure. It is therefore suggested that the ward teachers commence their visit with prayer if that meets with the approval of the head of the household. One of the teachers should lead in the prayer which should always include a petition for the Lord's blessing upon the home visited. The other teacher should then give the message of the month. These visits should not ordinarily last more than fifteen minutes.

It is suggested that the first ten days of the month be considered the ward teaching period. This will leave the remaining twenty days of the month clear for other appointments.

If members live so far away from the ward or branch that it is impossible for ward teachers to visit them, they should do the next best—either telephone or write to ascertain how the family is getting along, and whether or not they are in need of assistance of any kind. A copy of the last *Messenger* containing the ward teaching message should also be sent. While this should not be done every month, it is better than no contact at all. Such procedure may be given credit for a call when it cannot be avoided.

The ward teachers should be supplied with a number of copies of the latest *Messenger* and should have a copy in every instance for families who have not received an issue at the time of regular distribution.

Every member of the priesthood, from the teachers of the Aaronic priesthood up, should be assigned ward teaching. This should include the Stake Presidency, High Council, Bishoprics, and all Stake and Ward officers. While it is well to divide the ward teachers into pairs, they in turn may divide their assignments, so that each may visit singly half of the families if they wish to do so. Where time permits, however, it is recommended that visits be made in pairs.

No one teacher should be responsible for more than three families if all the priesthood is assigned to this work—and that is desirable.

The bishops are requested to handle the teaching so that they can report 100 per cent each month. There are those who say percentages have no significance but as long as we are judged by them, and probably compared with the rest of the church on this basis, it is well to aim for 100 per cent each month.

Y. M. M. I. A.

W. Glenn Harmon, stake president of the Y. M. M. I. A. since 1931, has been released from this service. During his presidency he has had associated with him as counselors: H. R. Atkin, Floyd Griffiths, David Fuhriman, Manton Moody, John C. Stirrat, Von T. Ellsworth, Tom Payne, and F. E. Huish.

Ezra T. Benson, a member of the Boise Stake Presidency, and his family have moved into the Oakland stake. Brother Benson will do graduate work in agricultural economics at the University of California. We welcome the Benson family into our Stake.

We are very glad to have Delbert Wright with us again after several weeks of illness.

Ray Darton of the two hundred and twenty-second quorum of Seventies and his wife, Edna Philips Darton, have been appointed assistant editors of *The Messenger*. Their work will be to look after the foreign missionary department, and will keep us in touch with what is going on among our foreign missionaries.

The plans prepared by Theodore G. Ruegg, architect, for the proposed new Richmond chapel have been approved without change by the presiding bishropric and first presidency. We suggest that Richmond invite the entire stake to help them in this fine undertaking. If all will help a little, the task will not be beyond their ability to complete.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Johnson had as visitors last week Mrs. Johnson's father, Taylor P. Brockbank, and her sister, Miss Elaine Brockbank of Salt Lake City.

President Macdonald's father from Mesa, Arizona, was a recent visitor here.

F. E. Huish has been set apart as the new Stake president of the Y. M. M. I. A., with Tom Payne and Reed Gardner as counselors. Other members of the board are Lund Johnson, L. J. Aiken, Francis R. Wilcox, Roy Gardner, Walter Hall, Robert Stoker, Harold Candland, Manton Moody, and Tom Ferguson.

ODDS 'N ENDS

James Madison was the first President of the United States who habitually dressed in long trousers while he was chief executive. Washington, the elder Adams and Jefferson wore knee breeches during their administrations. Trousers or long pants were adopted in France in 1789 by the supporters of the revolution. In token of their sympathy with the French Revolution, many Americans adopted long pants.

MESSENGER NEWS

The bishops and presidents of all the wards and branches of the stake are asked to provide in conspicuous places boxes with, *"Place your items for the Messenger in this Box"* written on them. We suggest that these items be collected and sent in each week, that is, every Monday morning. Don't wait until the end of the month.

In an early issue, *The Messenger* will devote the front page exclusively to a particular ward or branch, until all of the wards and branches of the Stake have been featured.

This should include such pictures as the ward may think representative. It is suggested that the ward chapel or meeting place of each ward, together with its bishopric be included, as well as other ward pictures. A brief history of the ward or branch would be an interesting feature, together with the names of all the officers and teachers in the ward.

The first number will be given to the Oakland ward since it is the mother branch, not only of the Oakland-San Francisco area, but of the California Mission.

We suggest that the bishops appoint committees to begin work on this at once.

ELMHURST

Helene Brummett, of Elmhurst Ward, has been called to labor in the Central States mission under President Elias Woodruff. She will leave Salt Lake City for Independence, Missouri, October 15.

The farewell party is to be held on September 25, at the Elmhurst Ward chapel. Sister Brummett has been affiliated as an officer with the Sunday School primary and M. I. A.

OAKLAND

Daisy Ricks, and son, of Utah, have returned home after spending a few weeks with her mother, Emma Brown.

Mary Bright and son, Brother Russell H. Johnson of the Sunday School and his son, and Brother and Sister J. Roark and family have all returned to their homes after vacationing in Utah.

Mr. and Mrs. Waters, of Hurricane, Utah, are visiting their son, John L. Waters.

Donna Thulin enjoyed a brief visit from her mother, Mrs. Dickman of Price, Utah.

Margaret and Lileth Tidwell are home again after spending the summer with relatives in Smithfield, Utah.

Margery Gengler enjoyed a vacation at Pinecrest this summer as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wallin and son.

We are glad to have our organist, Ethel Badouin with us again after a few weeks' absence because of illness.

Members of the Ward were glad to know that the plans for the new chapel have been accepted by the authorities in Salt Lake City, and actual work on the chapel will soon be under way.

Lester Roark of Richmond and Frances Cary of Oakland were married in Oakland, August 1, 1936.

Claude Brown has been transferred to Bahrien Island, in the Persian Gulf, for a period of from one to three years. He is employed by the Standard Oil Company.

Erelda Fawcett has returned to Winters, California, after spending the school vacation with her mother, Nina Fawcett.

DESERET CLUB

The first of the fall season's activities of the Deseret Club of Berkeley was the presentation of the newly furnished students' room in the Berkeley chapel to the club members. Bishop Ericksen, in an informal ceremony, presented the key to the club. Wells Jakeman accepted the gift in behalf of the members, as the president, Eva Pinkerton was not able to be present because of illness. An impromptu social meeting was held in the new room after the ceremony.

The second important event sponsored by the club was the election of officers. Dilworth Jensen will act as president, with Eldon Gardner and Marjory Evans as first and second counselors, respectively. Doris Farr is secretary, and Jim Strong treasurer. Jim's many friends are happy to welcome him back into the club after his prolonged absence.

Eva Pinkerton, who for the past year has been president of the club, has left to continue her graduate work in Tucson, Arizona. Mrs. Pinkerton's efforts were largely responsible for the organization of the club, and her direction has insured the success of the varied activities carried on during the past season. The club is sincerely grateful for the efforts of Mrs. Pinkerton and her counselors of last season, Mark Ricks and Dudley Greaves.

During the absence of the regular executives of the club during the summer, the club continued its activities under the leadership of Louis Fowlkes, Tom Ferguson, and Wells Jakeman who headed an executive committee. Under the supervision of this committee, many interesting events were sponsored by the club.

When registration at the University has been completed, a list of the new students will be published in this column. The club extends a hearty welcome to all new students.

BERKELEY

Eva Pinkerton and her sister, Ione Casto, recently returned from a three-months' vacation at Lake Tahoe. Mrs. Pinkerton, President Emeritus of the Berkeley Deseret Club, who will leave soon for Tucson, Arizona, was guest of honor at a farewell party given by Ione Casto, Wednesday, September 2.

Dr. E. E. Ericksen, head of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Utah, and his family, have been the guests of Bishop Alma D. Ericksen for the past two weeks. In Dr. Ericksen's honor, a social was given at Bishop Ericksen's home on September 1.

We welcome Dr. E. T. Benson and family of Idaho Falls into the ward.

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